

Claims:

1. A communication system comprising:
a multimedia network comprising an information storage entity for
5 storing user information and call state control function entities;
an entity that is external to the multimedia network and arranged to
subscribe to the multimedia network for notifications regarding events that
associate with at least one other entity of the communication system, the
arrangement being such that
10 subscription messages from the external entity are routed to at least
one call state control function entity based on information stored in said
information storage entity,
said at least one call state control function entity is provided with
storage means for storing information received in said subscription messages,
15 and
said at least one call state control function entity sends a notification in
response to an event defined by said information stored at the storage means.
2. A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
20 subscription messages are routed to the at least one call state control function
entity via the information storage entity.
3. A communication system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the
25 multimedia network comprises an IP multimedia subsystem.
4. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein
the information stored at the information storage entity contains information
regarding those call state control function entities the external entity can
subscribe to.
- 30 5. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein
the notification is sent to the external entity.

6. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the information storage entity comprises a home subscriber server.
- 5 7. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the call state control function entity comprises a serving call state control function entity.
8. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein
10 the external entity comprises an application server.
9. A communication system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the application server is a presence server.
- 15 10. A communication system as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the external entity comprises a user equipment.
11. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the at least one other entity comprises a user equipment.
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12. A communication system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the system operates in accordance with a session initiation protocol (SIP), and the events are events of that protocol.
- 25 13. A communication system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the subscription message comprises a SIP SUBSCRIBE message, and the notification comprises a SIP NOTIFY message.
14. A method for sending notifications in a communication system
30 comprising a multimedia network, an entity that is external to the multimedia network and at least one other entity, the multimedia network including an

information storage entity and call state control function entities, the method comprising:

subscribing by the external entity to the multimedia network for notifications regarding events associated with the at least one other entity;

5 routing of subscription messages from the external entity to at least one call state control function entity based on information stored in said information storage entity;

storing in storage means associated with said at least one call state control function entity information received in said subscription messages; and

10 sending a notification by the call state control function in response to an event defined by said information stored at the storage means.